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Book Reviews

Deigma, a First Greek Book. By C. FLAMSTEAD WALTERS and R. S. CONWAY, with the co-operation of CONSTANCE I. DANIEL. London: John Murray, 1916.

If a teacher in the schools is looking for a first Greek book which is, in one volume, an elementary book of the inductive method, an exercise book with a moderate use of the direct method, a reader containing simple Greek narratives by the present authors and adapted excerpts from ancient authors, a grammar with no systematic arrangement of its contents, and two dictionaries, he will find all this, and more, in *Deigma*. He will find, also, a large vocabulary, the value of which in an elementary book is doubtful. If, according to the author's plan, he uses this book for two years, he cannot acquaint his class with the non-thematic verbs until the end of the first year, nor with the subjunctive and optative moods until the second year; while the subject of indirect discourse will not be presented until the end of the second year.

During all this time the pupil will be receiving exhaustive drill on exercises and at the same time will be postponing his introduction to, and extended acquaintance with, a real Greek prose author. But it is a matter of serious doubt whether the pupil will be benefited proportionally by the great variety of diversions that are incorporated in the book with the intention of catching and keeping his interest.

Discreet comparisons of certain Greek forms with their Latin cognates, brief presentations of the historical development of some apparently irregular forms, and detailed efforts at the explanation of some matters of syntax will perhaps seem admirable to some teachers.

In spite of the first statement of its preface, however, the entire book represents a direct contrast to the recent tendency to simplify and shorten the elementary stage to a safe minimum, and then to put a classical text into the hands of the pupil as early as possible in his career.

R. B. N.

The Wasps of Aristophanes. The Greek text revised with a translation into corresponding metres, introduction, and commentary. By BENJAMIN BICKLEY ROGERS, M.A., HON. D. LITT. London: G. Bell & Sons; New York: Macmillan, 1915.

Although the title-page withholds the fact, we have here a revision of an edition and translation of the *Wasps*, originally published in 1875. As a barrister Mr. Rogers is interested in the legal procedure of Athenian courts, and in his introduction to the first edition he discussed at length this aspect of the play; the new edition appends a supplement to the introduction; in this